

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 18, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23 remain in this application, where claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 21 are independent.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 11 and 18 for certain informalities. In response, claims 11 and 18 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 11 and 18 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,139,386 (Suzuki). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of itself. Further, claims 9 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of WO 00/67294 (Hendricx). Claim 22 is

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,110,657 (Sobieski). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-23, as amended, are patentable over Suzuki, Hendricx and Sobieski for at least the following reasons.

Suzuki is directed to a high pressure discharge lamp with an improved sealing system. As shown in FIG 12, the Suzuki lamp has a ceramic discharge tube 10. The "ceramic discharge tube 10 is equipped with a main body 11 of a barrel shape having an expanded central portion, and end portions 12 disposed at the both ends of the main body 11." (Column 17, lines 64-67) As clearly shown in FIG 12, a clogging member 60 is located on the end portions 12 of the main body 11, between the end portions 12 and through-hole 60a. A sealing material layer 62A and a shrink-fitted member 61 are formed on the clogging member 60, and a thermal expansion mitigating member 17 is formed on the shrink-fitted member 61. (See Column 22, lines 5-37)

It is respectfully submitted that Suzuki does not disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1,

and similarly recited in independent claims 9, 10, 11 and 21 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

at least one coating layer and a sealant are located and gas-tight connected between the end part of the discharge vessel and the end closure member, wherein the at least one coating layer is located on the at least one end part of the discharge vessel between the at least one end part and the sealant, and wherein the sealant is located on the at least one coating layer between the at least one coating layer and the at least one end closure member.

A coating layer located on the end part of the discharge vessel between the end part and the sealant, and a sealant is located on the coating layer between the coating layer and the end closure member, are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Suzuki.

Rather, Suzuki discloses that the clogging member 60 is located on the end portions 12 of the main body 11 between the end portions 12 and the through-hole 60a. Hendricx and Sobieski are cited to allegedly show other features and do not remedy the deficiencies in Suzuki.


Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 21 are allowable, and allowance thereof is

respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6, 8, 12-19 and 22-23 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 11 as well as their individually patentable elements. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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